

Coins

In time for the bicentennial, a rebate

By Roger Boye

REGARDLESS of the outcome of the tax rebate plan in Congress, many coin collectors will receive another kind of rebate from the federal government.

The U. S. Mint has lowered the price of the three-piece bicentennial proof set by \$3, to \$12. Beginning March 14, persons who have already ordered the sets for \$15 will receive a \$3 refund per set ordered.

The Mint also extended to July 4, 1976, the deadline for ordering the bicentennial proof and uncirculated sets. Originally, the deadline was last Jan. 31. The uncirculat-

ed set price remains unchanged at \$9.

Many numismatists have been highly critical of the Mint for what was termed the "exorbitant" \$15 price for the set of three proof coins, which contained 40 per cent silver. The lower price was made possible, according to the Mint, thru the planned introduction of a new automated system of producing the proof coins.

To order the bicentennial coin sets, write the Bureau of the Mint, 55 Mint St., San Francisco, Cal. 94175. These sets, of course, feature the new bicentennial reverse designs on the quarter, half-dollar and dollar coin. Coins

with these new reverse designs should begin appearing in circulation after July 4, 1975.

There is no limit on the number of sets which can be ordered.

THE OWNER of an antique shop ran an advertisement in a local newspaper to buy antiques, writes Chicago-area coin expert Glenn Smedley in the February issue of Numismatist magazine.

A lady phoned the shop and asked, "I saw your ad: do you buy antique televisions?"

A gross misuse of the word "antique," says Smedley.

EDITORIAL writers for nearly every numismatic publication have been advocating production of a U. S. gold coin or coins to commemorate the nation's 200th birthday in 1976.

It appears they could get what they want, because the U. S. Mint says the idea is under consideration. A bicentennial gold coin or coins would have to receive Congressional approval.

A numismatic publication, Coin World, believes the Mint might be hard-pressed for time in order to produce gold coinage by 1976, assuming approval, and might elect to continue designs of earlier gold coins.



Reverse of Saint-Gaudens \$20 gold piece

Thus, the design on the last \$20 gold piece minted and circulated by the U. S. government in 1932, called the Augustus Saint-Gaudens variety after its designer, could conceivably be revived for the bicentennial.